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WINCANTON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1960



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Wincanton,
Somerset.

February, 1962.

To the
Rural District Council of Wincanton

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1960.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|--------------|
| Area | .. | .. | .. | .. | 64,540 acres |
| Population (Est.: mid 1960) | .. | .. | .. | .. | 17,500 |
| Number of inhabited houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5,690 |
| Rateable Value | .. | .. | .. | .. | £159,169 |
| Net product of a penny rate | .. | .. | .. | .. | £647 |

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR
BIRTHS

| | | Males | Females |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Live births | Total | 106 | 118 |
| | Legitimate | 103 | 114 |
| | Illegitimate | 3 | 4 |
| | Rate per 1,000 resident population— | 12.8 | |
| | Comparative rate, England & Wales— | 17.1 | |
| Still births | Total | 1 | 3 |
| | Legitimate | 1 | 3 |
| | Illegitimate | 0 | 0 |
| | Rate per 1,000 live and still births— | 17.8 | |
| | Comparative rate England & Wales— | 19.7 | |

Deaths all causes: Total 235. Males 117. Females 118.

There were three deaths, one male and two females under the age of one year.

There were no maternal deaths.

The chief causes of death were:

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|------|
| Heart Disease | .. | .. | .. | 104 | (60) |
| Intra-cranial vascular disease | .. | .. | .. | 49 | (49) |
| Cancer, all sorts | .. | .. | .. | 33 | (37) |
| Cancer of lungs (included above) | .. | .. | .. | 7 | (8) |
| Bronchitis | .. | .. | .. | 5 | (6) |
| Pneumonia | .. | .. | .. | 5 | (4) |
| Road accidents | .. | .. | .. | 2 | (4) |
| Other accidents | .. | .. | .. | 4 | (1) |
| Suicide | .. | .. | .. | 4 | (1) |
| Tuberculosis | .. | .. | .. | 0 | (1) |

1959 figures are shown in brackets.

3.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

| | | | |
|-------------------|----|-----|-------|
| Diphtheria | .. | 0 | (0) |
| Whooping Cough | | 26 | (7) |
| Scarlet Fever | .. | 3 | (13) |
| Measles | .. | 197 | (349) |
| Pneumonia | .. | 22 | (30) |
| Tuberculosis | .. | 3 | (8) |
| Poliomyelitis | .. | 0 | (0) |
| Erysipelis | .. | 2 | (3) |
| Dysentery | .. | 0 | (1) |
| Puerperal pyrexia | | 1 | (1) |
| Food poisoning | | 0 | (0) |

1959 figures are shown in
brackets.

The measles epidemic which was so widespread in 1959 continued in the early months of this year. With this exception the incidence of infectious disease was low.

There was no outbreak of food poisoning.

4.—NURSING SERVICES

The number of District Nurses and Midwives in the Rural District is eleven, the same number as last year. Some of them also carry out the duties of Health Visitors with particular responsibility for the welfare of children below school age and of the aged.

The ante-natal classes where expectant mothers receive instruction in relaxation, infant feeding and hygiene, personal health and advice on any personal doubts or problems are becoming increasingly popular. The classes held several times a year with the assistance of physiotherapists and midwives from the Hospital have been much appreciated.

5.—AMBULANCE SERVICE

This is provided by the County Council and has worked very satisfactorily during the year. No instances of undue delay have come to my notice.

The very limited public transport services in some parts of the Rural District are responsible for the heavy demands made on the service. The probable further curtailment of the railway services will inevitably cause an increase in the demands made on the ambulance services.

6.—IMMUNISATION

Vaccination against smallpox and innoculation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis is the responsibility of the County Council and is carried out by the school medical officers, County medical officers and general practitioners. I believe that nearly all children are inoculated against diphtheria and poliomyelitis but that between 25 and 30 % are not vaccinated against smallpox.

B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis is done for a high proportion of susceptible children.

7.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

The staff of the Public Health Department comprises one senior inspector and two additional inspectors all of them being also inspectors of meat and foods, one clerical assistant, one shorthand typist and one part time medical officer.

8.—WATER SUPPLIES

No serious shortages were reported during the year and the quality generally has been satisfactory.

There are plumbo-solvent properties in the Bruton and Charlton Musgrove supplies. The water is treated by passage over magnesite in the latter case, but this must be regarded as only partly effective.

Chlorination is carried out in connection with the Bruton, Castle Cary, Milborne Port, Penselwood, Templecombe and Wincanton supplies.

After heavy rain the Wincanton supply is very discoloured due to contamination with surface water. Although chlorination does give some protection the supply must be regarded as suspect.

Samples are taken regularly for chemical and bacteriological examination, the results are tabulated below:

| Raw Water | | | | Treated after going into Supply | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Bacteriological | | Chemical | | Bacteriological | | Chemical | |
| Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory |
| Public 18 | 6 | 8 | — | 125 | 8 | 8 | — |
| Private 7 | 7 | — | — | — | — | — | — |

Supplies from mains.

| Direct to Houses | | By means of Standpipes | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| No. of Dwelling Houses | Population (Estimated) | No. of Dwelling Houses | Population (Estimated) |
| Public 5,275 | 15,844 | 18 | 52 |
| Private 309 | 959 | — | — |

A piped supply was substituted for well water in one case and for other private sources in seven cases.

The number of houses dependant on well supplies is 60.

9.—DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

Main drainage and disposal systems are operating in the following parishes: Ansford, Bruton, Castle Cary, Henstridge, Milborne Port, North Cheriton, Queen Camel, South Barrow, Sparkford, Templecome and Wincanton.

The repair and reconstruction of the Bruton disposal works was completed during the year at a cost of £17,000.

The North Cadbury scheme is under discussion with the Ministry and a scheme for Charlton Horethorne is being prepared. The estimated cost of the North Cadbury scheme is £16,000.

No cesspool emptying service is operated. I think this should be considered in view of the impossibility of providing sewage disposal systems for all villages and hamlets.

10.—CAMPING SITES

| | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|
| Number of permanent camping sites | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Maximum number allowed per acre | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| Number of individual moveable dwellings | .. | .. | .. | 20 |
| Estimated number of campers resident during the year | .. | .. | .. | 15 |

11.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

| | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|---|
| Total number of registered dairies | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| Total number of registered distributors | .. | .. | .. | 8 |
| No milk samples were taken | | | | |

Ice Cream

There are no premises registered for manufacture of ice cream

| | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Number of premises registered for the retail sale of ice cream | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 80 |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|

No samples of ice cream were taken

Premises where food is prepared

See the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

One successful prosecution was undertaken during the year but no other statutory action has been necessary.

12.—SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There is no slaughter house in the Rural District which is owned or leased by the Local Authority.

There is one bacon factory and three private licensed slaughter houses.

All these premises are inspected regularly. The work entailed is very considerable, and the detailed results are set out in full in the Inspector's report.

There is no registered Knackers Yard in the Rural District.

13.—SWIMMING BATHS

| | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Owned by the Local Authority | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |
| Privately owned | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Estimated average number of bathers daily.. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 25-50 |
| Water used for filling: from a well. | | | | | |
| Treatment by recirculation, aeration, and automatic chlorination. | | | | | |
| Samples taken: Nil. | | | | | |

14.—HOUSING

| | | |
|---|----|-------|
| Total number of permanent dwellings in the District | .. | 5,690 |
| Total number owned by the Local Authority | .. | 1,567 |

Action taken during the year

| | | |
|--|----|-----|
| (1) Number of houses in clearance areas still to be made | .. | Nil |
| (2) Number of houses in clearance areas which have been patched for temporary accommodation under section 48 of the Housing Act 1957 | .. | Nil |
| (3) Number of houses demolished under section 42 of the Housing Act 1957 | .. | Nil |
| (4) Number of houses demolished or closed under section 17 of the Housing Act 1957 | .. | 16 |
| (5) Number of temporary dwellings demolished | .. | Nil |
| (6) Number of notices served under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1957 | .. | 1 |
| (7) Number of unfit houses occupied under licence | .. | Nil |
| (8) Number of houses made fit during the year | .. | 22 |
| (9) Rent Act 1957 (1st schedule) | .. | .. |

No applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year.

| | Houses erected during year | | Houses in course of erection | | <i>Gained</i> from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings | <i>Lost</i> from conversion of two or more houses to one |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| | For Slum Clearance | For Other Purposes | For Slum Clearance | For Other Purposes | | |
| Local Authority .. | — | 14 | — | — | — | — |
| Private Enterprise | — | 19 | — | 23 | 1 | 1 |
| Totals .. | — | 33 | — | 23 | 1 | 1 |

| Houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1960 | | Housing Programme for 1961 | |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| By Local Authority | By Private Enterprise | For Slum Clearance | For Other Purposes |
| 703 | 210 | 25 | 5 |

Balsam Close, Old People's Dwellings

Erected during 1960:

With County Council aid: 13.

Without County Council aid: 10.

There are no more at present in course of erection.

Number of applicants for "Old People's Dwellings" .. 62

A warden's house was included in this scheme where bedrooms are available for the accommodation of relatives in emergency.

The selection of tenants raises some new problems. Even recourse to medical examination and opinion cannot ensure that a tenant's health will not deteriorate, perhaps very soon, to such an extent as to make them too great a liability to the Warden and their neighbours. When the time comes that a tenant should be admitted to hospital for proper care and attention, whether temporarily or permanently, it is not always possible to get them to agree. Naturally this is much more difficult in those cases where the tenant is so infirm mentally or physically that the proper course is for them to give up their home altogether.

In this connection it must be realised that hospital authorities have no power to detain people who demand to go out even in defiance of a doctor's advice.

Improvement Grants

25 applications for discretionary grants in respect of 27 dwellings were approved during the year, the average cost per dwelling being £909 10s. od.

The total amount payable by the Local Authority .. £9,406

The number of applications approved in respect of owner occupiers during the year was 12.

28 applications for standard grants were received and 26 were approved.

Standard amenities have been provided in 9 houses.

Houses required

| | | | |
|--|----|----|-----|
| To replace houses scheduled for demolition | .. | .. | 100 |
| To abate overcrowding | .. | .. | Nil |
| For other purposes | .. | .. | 100 |
| Number on the waiting list for Council houses (urgent cases 143, others 155) | .. | .. | 298 |
| Number of Council houses sold during 1960 | .. | .. | 4 |

15.—FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

Part I

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written notices | Occupiers prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority | 21 | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 75 | 32 | 1 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 96 | 47 | 1 | 0 |

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

| Particulars | Found | Remedied | Referred | |
|---|-------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | | to H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (Section 6) | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences: | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | — | 4 | — | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences, not relating to outwork | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 1 | 5 | — | — |

No prosecutions were instituted during the year

Part VIII of the Act
OUTWORK
(Sections 110 and 111)

| Nature of work | Section 110 | | Section 111 | |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| | No. of workers | No cases of default | No un- wholesome premises | Notices served |
| Wearing apparel, chiefly gloving | 156 | — | — | — |

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentleman,

Your obedient servant,

E. M. TUSTIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Wincanton,
Somerset.

June, 1961.

E. M. Tustin, Esq., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Vedlers Hey,
Balsam Park,
Wincanton.

Sir,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1960.

STAFF

On 31st August, 1960, Mr. Robinson who had been Additional Public Health Inspector since the 18th August, 1952, resigned to take up an appointment as sole Public Health Inspector and Surveyor for Norton Rural District Council.

He has been succeeded by Mr. J. M. Sharp who has come from Hereford City Council.

The total number of inspections was 4,223, made up as follows:

Public Health Acts

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Camping Sites | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 39 |
| Dangerous Buildings | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 26 |
| Drainage, Sewers and Sewage Disposal | | | | | .. | .. | 124 |
| Nuisances | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 186 |
| Rodent and other infestations | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 27 |
| Water supplies | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 133 |

New Buildings

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Byelaws and Town Planning | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,395 |
|---------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------|

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Housing | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 574 |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|

Food and Drugs Act

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Meat Inspection | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 677 |
| Food Premises | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 111 |
| Milk and Dairies | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Petroleum | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 263 |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Factories | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 47 |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Grants—Standard and Discretionary | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 240 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Miscellaneous | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 104 |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|

| | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Interviews | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 272 |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|

4,223

POPULATION SERVED BY PIPED WATER SUPPLIES

| Parish | Popu- lation Census 1951 | Total No. of houses | Public Supplies | | | | Private Supplies | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| | | | Supplied by pipe | | Supplied by standpipe | | Supplied by pipe | |
| | | | No. of houses | Est. Pop. | No. of houses | Est. Pop. | No. of houses | Est. Pop. |
| Alford | 76 | 24 | 24 | 77 | — | — | — | — |
| Ansford | 506 | 171 | 168 | 506 | — | — | 1 | 3 |
| Bratton Seymour | 145 | 36 | 29 | 117 | — | — | 7 | 28 |
| Brewham | 443 | 126 | 120 | 420 | — | — | 4 | 13 |
| Bruton | 1,614 | 566 | 555 | 1,673 | — | — | 9 | 27 |
| Castle Cary .. | 1,575 | 639 | 629 | 1,610 | — | — | 7 | 17 |
| Charlton Horethorne | 492 | 162 | 151 | 474 | 6 | 18 | 2 | 6 |
| Charlton Musgrove .. | 359 | 127 | 118 | 361 | — | — | 5 | 15 |
| Compton Pauncefoot | 178 | 59 | 25 | 75 | — | — | 34 | 105 |
| Corton Denham | 222 | 70 | 9 | 28 | — | — | 58 | 189 |
| Cucklington .. | 219 | 65 | 61 | 199 | — | — | 2 | 6 |
| Henstridge .. | 1,096 | 381 | 367 | 1,081 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 9 |
| Holton | 209 | 78 | 67 | 189 | — | — | 7 | 20 |
| Horsington .. | 611 | 168 | 154 | 541 | — | — | 11 | 38 |
| Lovington .. | 201 | 54 | 54 | 201 | — | — | — | — |
| Maperton .. | 102 | 37 | 29 | 81 | — | — | 5 | 14 |
| Milborne Port .. | 1,637 | 574 | 564 | 1,639 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 17 |
| North Barrow .. | 85 | 27 | 27 | 89 | — | — | — | — |
| North Cadbury .. | 704 | 227 | 173 | 544 | — | — | 44 | 151 |
| North Cheriton .. | 157 | 63 | 62 | 155 | — | — | 1 | 3 |
| Penselwood .. | 254 | 88 | 77 | 224 | — | — | 6 | 17 |
| Pitcombe .. | 344 | 116 | 100 | 301 | — | — | 13 | 39 |
| Queen Camel .. | 522 | 179 | 168 | 506 | — | — | 4 | 12 |
| Shepton Montague | 205 | 66 | 49 | 152 | — | — | 5 | 16 |
| South Barrow .. | 115 | 43 | 43 | 116 | — | — | — | — |
| South Cadbury | 268 | 96 | 25 | 75 | — | — | 63 | 178 |
| Sparkford .. | 397 | 134 | 130 | 392 | — | — | 5 | 15 |
| Stoke Trister .. | 305 | 102 | 97 | 291 | — | — | 3 | 9 |
| Templecombe .. | 1,015 | 337 | 329 | 991 | 6 | 18 | 2 | 6 |
| Wincanton .. | 2,537 | 829 | 829 | 2,595 | — | — | — | — |
| Yarlington .. | 158 | 46 | 42 | 138 | — | — | 2 | 6 |
| | 16,751 | 5,690 | 5,257 | 15,844 | 18 | 52 | 309 | 959 |

SEWERAGE

Control of Templecombe and North Cheriton Sewerage Systems was handed over to the Engineer during the year.

Consideration has been given to the Priority List for new schemes and the list now stands as follows:—

1. North Cadbury

2. Galhampton

3. Charlton Musgrove
(Council Houses)

4. Charlton Horethorne

5. Sutton Montis

6. Bayford

7. South Cadbury

8. South Cheriton
9. Corton Denham

10. Yenston

11. Station Road, Ansford
and Clanville

12. Alford

13. Pitcombe

14. Shepton Montague

15. Horsington
- Equal

merit

This list is subject to revision from time to time

I consider that schemes for sewage disposal are **needed** in all the foregoing places, some because of nuisance and others because of stream pollution.

The need is less urgent in some mainly because of the smaller population. It does not appear to me to be practicable to provide sewerage systems to all the small parishes, and in saying this I accept that those without, must eventually decay.

Having regard to this, in my view schemes are **urgently needed** in North Cadbury (pollution), Galhampton (nuisance and pollution), Charlton Horethorne (pollution), Sutton Montis (nuisance and pollution), Bayford (pollution and nuisance).

HOUSING

The following table gives details of the thirty-three dwellings erected during the year, the figures in brackets being those for 1959.

| | Council Houses | | | Total | Private Enter- prise |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| | Warden Bung. | Bung. S.S.10 | Bung. S.S.8 | | |
| Ansford | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Charlton Horethorne .. | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Charlton Musgrove .. | — | — | — | — | 5 |
| North Cadbury .. | — | — | — | — | 5 |
| Penselwood | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Queen Camel | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| South Cadbury .. | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Sparkford | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Stoke Trister | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Wincanton | 1 | 4 | 9 | 14 | 2 |
| 1959.. .. | — | — | — | 14 (Nil) | 19 (25) |

The year was notable for the completion of Balsam Close, a group of fourteen bungalows, with a communal room, visitors' bedrooms and accommodation for a Warden. This has been so successful that I hope similar schemes will be developed in the other large centres of population.

Slum Clearance Programme

Steady progress has been maintained in dealing with unfit houses.

During the year the tenants of eight condemned houses were rehoused in Council houses.

There remain 59 occupied houses which are subject to Demolition Orders, Closing Orders and Undertakings Not to Use.

Improvement Grants

I append tables showing the progress since the beginning of both schemes. The tables include the housing units in the scheme for the improvement of the Almshouses known as Sexeys Hospital, Bruton, in which three two roomed and sixteen single roomed units were made fit.

Discretionary Grants—Number of houses involved:

| | Applications | | | | | Approved Applications | | | | | Resulting in houses | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|-------|---------------------|--------|------|
| | Re-ceived | With-drawn | Re-fused | Ap-proved | Under Con-sider-ation | Aban-doned | Com-pleted | Work in Hand | Not start-ed | Total | Saved | Gain'd | Lost |
| Agricultural Cottages | 104 | 12 | — | 87 | 5 | 1 | 69 | 11 | 6 | 87 | 24 | 4 | 3 |
| Owner/ Occupied | 61 | 5 | 5 | 49 | 2 | 1 | 37 | 4 | 7 | 49 | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| Other | 48 | 6 | 1 | 40 | 1 | — | 35 | 5 | — | 40 | 14 | 1 | 12 |
| Position at 31/12/60 | 213 | 23 | 6 | 176 | 8 | 2 | 141 | 20 | 13 | 176 | 44 | 7 | 17 |
| Position at 31/12/59 | 181 | 20 | 4 | 149 | 8 | 2 | 114 | 26 | 7 | 149 | 31 | 6 | 6 |
| Progress for 1960 | 32 | 3 | 2 | 27 | 8 | — | 27 | 20 | 13 | — | 13 | 1 | 11 |

Standard Grants—Number of houses involved:

| | Applications | | | | | Approved Applications | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| | Re-ceived | With-drawn | Re-fused | Ap-proved | Under consid-eration | Aban-doned | Comp-pleted | Work in Hand | Not Star-ted | Total |
| Agricultural Cottages | 21 | 3 | 1 | 17 | — | — | 3 | 12 | 2 | 17 |
| Owner/ Occupied | 21 | 2 | — | 16 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 16 |
| Other .. | 9 | — | — | 8 | 1 | — | 3 | 5 | — | 8 |
| Position at 31.12.60 | 51 | 5 | 1 | 41 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 25 | 3 | 41 |

Moveable Dwellings

Twenty licences were in force on 29th August, 1960, when the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 came into force.

This Act defined more clearly the functions of the Planning Authority and of the District Council.

All sites other than those occupied by certain exempted organisations must have a planning consent and a site licence. The various factors which must be considered are set out in Ministry Model Standards.

It is clear that this must result in a general improvement in the standard of caravan sites.

STATUTORY AND INFORMAL ACTION

Informal Action

In addition to the 73 Informal Notices outstanding at the beginning of the year 28 have been served. Of the total of 101, 2 have been withdrawn and 48 have been complied with.

The following is a summary of the results obtained:

Remedied

| | |
|--|----|
| Drainage Nuisance | 15 |
| Dangerous or Dilapidated Buildings | 4 |
| Miscellaneous Nuisances | 4 |
| Contraventions—Food and Drugs Act | 2 |
| Petroleum Regulations | 16 |
| Factories and Workplaces—Unsuitable Sanitary Con- veniences | 5 |
| Rodent Infestation | 1 |
| Housing Defects | 1 |

Statutory Action

Public Health Acts

| | |
|---|---|
| Statutory Notices served | 2 |
| Statutory Notices complied with | 2 |

The following are the results obtained:—

Remedied

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Nuisances—Premises | 1 |
| Animals | 1 |

The state of the stream at North Barrow has depreciated over several years and was considered to be in such a state as to be a statutory nuisance. After the Company responsible had failed to comply with a Nuisance Notice, Court proceedings were taken, a fine imposed and a Nuisance Order made.

It is I think fair comment to say the stream was obviously polluted before it became a nuisance and might perhaps have been dealt with earlier by the River Board.

Housing Acts

| | |
|--|----|
| Notices served under Sec. 9 | 1 |
| Notices served under Sec. 16 | 21 |
| Undertakings to repair accepted | 1 |
| Closing Orders Made | 12 |
| Demolition Orders Made | 4 |
| Undertakings to Repair complied with | 1 |
| Houses closed | 12 |
| Houses demolished | 4 |

Other Results

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Houses Made Fit | 22 |
| Houses Lost by Conversion | 1 |
| Additional Units formed | 1 |

HOUSE REFUSE AND SALVAGE

The House Refuse and Salvage Scheme continues to operate satisfactorily by direct labour. One ten cubic yard side-loading vehicle and one 18 cubic yard rear-loading vehicle are used.

Weekly collections are made in Ansford, Bruton, Castle Cary, Milborne Port and Wincanton, involving a population of 7,500. The remainder of the District, with the exception of a few outlying and isolated premises, is covered each fortnight.

Closet Accommodation

There were 26 conversions from Earth to Water closets during the year.

Public Conveniences

There are five public conveniences in the District. One each at Bruton, Castle Cary and Milborne Port and two at Wincanton.

FOOD

- (1) The number and types of food premises in the District are as follows:

| | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| Hotels and Public Houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | 55 |
| Grocery Stores (includes greengroceries and village stores) | | | | | 80 |
| Cafés | .. | .. | .. | .. | 13 |
| Butcheries | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16 |
| Confectioneries (includes sweets, cakes and ice cream) | | | | | 22 |
| Fried Fish and Wet Fish Shops | | .. | .. | .. | 5 |
| Licensed slaughterhouses | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| Egg Packing and Poultry Plucking Stations | | .. | .. | | 1 |
| Dairies | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| Canteens | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12 |
| Bakeries | .. | .. | .. | .. | 13 |

- (2) The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is:

For the sale of ice cream:

| | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Groceries | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 49 |
| Confectioneries | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 19 |
| Dairies | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Works Canteen | | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Cafés | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 |
| | | | | | — | 80 |
| Fried Fish shops and cafés registered for fried fish | | | | | 5 | |
| | | | | | — | 5 |
| Registered for sausage making—Butchers' shops | | | | | 12 | |
| Bacon Factories | | | | | 1 | |
| | | | | | — | |
| | | | | | 13 | 13 |
| | | | | | — | *98 |

(* Two premises are each registered under two headings)

| | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Number of registered dairies | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| Number of inspections of registered food premises | .. | | | | 111 |

Food Hygiene Regulations

A successful prosecution was taken, when unsatisfactory conditions persisted at a mobile canteen.

No other statutory action was found necessary.

Miscellaneous Foods

During the year 1,379 tins and packages of various foodstuffs, weighing approx. 24 cwts. were condemned. These foods were disposed of by burial at the Refuse Tip.

PETROLEUM STORAGE

Licences to store petroleum have been refused in the case of two Petrol Filling Stations, where living accommodation existed over the storage tanks. In one case an appeal has been lodged and at the time of writing this report the Home Office decision following an enquiry is awaited.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The County Council continued the delegation of their powers under Section 38, sub-section (3), (4) and (5) of the Act, which deal with lighting, facilities for meals and for washing. No contraventions have been found.

MEAT

After consultation with all trades and Associations interested, and with Public Health Inspectors of adjacent Local Authorities the Slaughter Report was prepared and submitted to the Ministry.

It provided for the future licensing of the following slaughterhouses, and set out in each case the work necessary to secure compliance with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958.

1. Mr. J. Bartlett, Wincanton.
2. Messrs. Loud, Wincanton.
3. Messrs. Newport, Castle Cary.
4. South Western Dairies Ltd., Bacon Factory, Bruton.

There were no objections to the report which the Council proposed should take effect on January 1st, 1962.

Despite difficulties, adequate inspection has been maintained. This has, of necessity, involved a reduction of work in other directions, but it is obvious from the table of results that this work is of utmost importance and every effort will be made to maintain this standard.

The results are included in the following table:

| | Cattle, excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Goats, Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|---|------------------------------|------|--------|---------------------------------|-------|
| Number Killed | 624 | 291 | 2,631 | 995 | 3,556 |
| Number Inspected .. . | 624 | 291 | 2,631 | 995 | 3,556 |
| <i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i> | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned .. | 1 | 31 | 60 | 42 | 66 |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 35 | 95 | 21 | 70 | 383 |
| Percentage of the number in- spected affected | 5.77 | 43.3 | 3.09 | 11.25 | 12.6 |
| <i>Tuberculosis only</i> | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. | — | — | — | — | 31 |
| Percentage of the number in- spected affected | — | — | — | — | 0.87 |
| <i>Cysticercosis</i> | | | | | |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| Generalised and totally con- demned | — | — | — | — | — |

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Under the Noise Abatement Act, 1960 which came into force on 27th October, 1960, excessive noise can be a Statutory Nuisance.

Action can be taken by the District Council or by any three occupiers of land who are aggrieved.

No complaints have yet been received.

FACTORIES ACTS

Under the Factories Act, 1959 the duties of the Council relating to Fire Escapes in Factories were transferred to the Fire Authority.

Arrangements have been made for consultation on cases where Byelaw and Planning requirements might be affected.

BYELAWS AND TOWN PLANNING

Byelaws

The following table summarizes the action taken during the year:—

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|----|-----|-----|
| In abeyance at 31st December, 1959 | .. | .. | 8 | |
| New applications | .. | .. | 267 | |
| | | | — | 275 |
| Approved | .. | .. | 250 | |
| Rejected | .. | .. | 15 | |
| Withdrawn | .. | .. | 2 | |
| | | | — | 267 |
| In abeyance at 31st December, 1960 | .. | .. | | 8 |

Infringements

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Relating to lack of notices, etc. | .. | .. | .. | 10 |
| Number which also included defects | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| Defective work corrected | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| No further action | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Plans presented | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Legal proceedings taken | .. | .. | .. | 1 |

The prosecution, which was successful, was concerned with the work of conversion of a building into a dwelling without plans or notice.

Town Planning

The arrangements for delegation to this Council include the division of applications into three categories by the Area Planning Officer as follows:—

Category "A" These, not appearing to involve a planning principle, are dealt with by the District Council.

Category "B" These, which may involve a planning principle, are also delegated to the District Council, but if the Council disagree with the advice of the Area Planning Officer, the application is referred to a special Sub-Committee.

Category "C" and "D" These are dealt with by the County Council.

| | B/F 1st Jan. 1960 | New Appli- cations | Total | No. Ap- proved | No. Re- fused | No. With- drawn | Not Yet Cat. | Per- mitted Develop- ment | No. Deci- sion |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Cat. A .. | 1 | 41 | 42 | 33 | 1 | 2 | — | — | 6 |
| Cat. B | 14 | 120 | 134 | 83 | 12 | 1 | — | — | 38 |
| Cat. C .. | 41 | 93 | 134 | 63 | 18 | 4 | — | — | 49 |
| Cat. D .. | 38 | 36 | 74 | 39 | — | — | — | — | 35 |
| Others .. | — | 22 | 22 | — | — | — | 13 | 9 | — |
| | 94 | 312 | 406 | 218 | 31 | 7 | 13 | 9 | 128 |

Infringements

32 cases were reported during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

No charge is made for operations at dwellings.

Charges based on the actual cost of operations continue to be made in respect of business and agricultural premises.

The sewers, sewage works and refuse tips are all subject to regular treatment.

The summary of operations is given in the following table:—

| | Class of Property | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------|------|--------|
| | L.A. | D.H.'s | Bus. | Agric. |
| Prevalence of rats and/or mice .. | 13 | 162 | 11 | 28 |
| Number infested by: | | | | |
| Rats: Major | 3 | 7 | — | 13 |
| Minor | 10 | 146 | 8 | 16 |
| Mice: Major | — | — | — | — |
| Minor | — | 10 | 4 | 1 |
| Number of properties inspected .. | 14 | 301 | 24 | 51 |
| Number of properties treated .. | 13 | 162 | 11 | 28 |

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. GRAY,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

